



AUG. 17, 2009

HEALTH UPDATE

Updated Novel H1N1 Influenza Testing Criteria For the Burleigh County Area

As of August 13, 2009, 79 confirmed cases of novel H1N1 influenza have been reported to the North Dakota Department of Health. Two hospitalized cases have been reported statewide. Fifteen of the cases have been in Burleigh County residents with four being reported last week. Ages for Burleigh County cases have ranged from one to 50 years; the median age is 20 and the average age is 22 years. This virus is established in the community and ongoing transmission is likely. Because our laboratory is now reaching its capacity for influenza testing, we are asking that Bismarck area providers follow the updated testing criteria listed below. As our laboratory reaches capacity, testing priority will be given to hospitalized patients, ill health-care workers and patients from counties or areas where probable and confirmed cases have not yet been detected.

Effective immediately in the Burleigh County area, the following groups should be considered for H1N1 testing:

1. People presenting with a fever ($\geq 100.0^{\circ}$) and a cough, with or without a sore throat, and reside outside of the Burleigh County area (i.e., adjacent North Dakota counties)
2. Hospitalized patients with fever and respiratory illness in the absence of a known cause other than influenza, regardless of residency or travel history
3. Health-care workers with fever and respiratory illness
4. Upon consultation with the North Dakota Department of Health, testing to confirm a local outbreak or cluster

Thank you for your attention and your assistance in this matter. More information regarding H1N1 infections can be found at www.ndflu.com/swineflu or by calling the Division of Disease Control at 701.328.2378 or toll-free 800.472.2180.

Categories of Health Alert messages:

- *Health Alert conveys the highest level of importance; warrants immediate action or attention.*
- *Health Advisory provides important information for a specific incident or situation; may not require immediate action.*
- *Health Update provides updated information regarding an incident or situation; no immediate action necessary.*
- *Health Information provides general information that is not necessarily considered to be of an emergent nature.*

This message is being sent to local public health units, clinics, hospitals, physicians, tribal health, North Dakota Nurses Association, North Dakota Long Term Care Association, North Dakota Healthcare Association, North Dakota Medical Association, and hospital public information officers.